



PHIL201

Business and Professional Ethics

S3 Online 2019

Dept of Philosophy

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Tutor details will be available in iLearn

Credit points
3

Prerequisites
(12cp at 100 level or above) or admission to GDipArts

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit provides students with an introduction to some of the main ethical issues raised by the activities of businesses and corporations in contemporary society and introduces some central topics in professional ethics. The first part of the unit examines the roles and responsibilities of businesses and corporations in relation to individuals and society. We ask whether corporations have moral responsibilities to stakeholders other than shareholders and examine competing accounts of economic justice related to this question. Other topics in this section include the ethics of discrimination and affirmative action and the influence of business on government. The second part of the unit begins with an examination of the responsibilities of business in relation to the environment. Other topics in this section include justice and globalization, conflicts of interest in medicine, the ethics of advertising, and whistleblowing. This unit is relevant to students in accounting and business studies as well as those in the humanities and social sciences.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- Demonstrate good general knowledge of the major issues in contemporary business and professional ethics
- Understand the major ethical concepts and theories that inform the business and professional ethics literature
- Analyse and critically evaluate theories and arguments in the relevant literature

Relate ethical concepts and theories to relevant case studies and current events

Develop your own view or perspective, through consideration and analysis of views and arguments presented in the unit

Develop your skills in clarity of thought, clarity of verbal and written expression, and written argumentation

General Assessment Information

Written assignments are to be submitted through Turnitin, and will be marked and returned via Grademark. For information about these tools, see:

http://www.mq.edu.au/iLearn/student_info/assignments.htm

There is no need for a coversheet - the iLearn assignment submission (Turnitin) involves declaring your details and honesty in submitting your work. Please note, we do not accept submission by email attachment.

Late Submission Penalty

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted more than seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests.

Academic Honesty

In Philosophy, academic honesty is taken very seriously. Misrepresenting someone else's work as your own may be grounds for referral to the Faculty Disciplinary Committee. If you have questions about how to properly cite work or how to credit sources, please talk to one of the teaching staff and see also Academic Integrity Policy (see the Policies and Procedures section below).

Your assessments in this units are *individual assessments*, so the work you submit must be your own work. You may not work on the assignments with other students.

For information about extensions, late penalties and special consideration, see the *Policies and Procedures* section below.

Any assessment problems should be discussed with the convenor as soon as they arise.

Submission times

All times referred to in due dates are Sydney time (Australian Eastern Daylight time, UTC+11).

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Moral Reasoning Assignment</u>	20%	No	11.59pm, Sunday 15/12/19 (Week 2)
<u>Reading Assignment</u>	25%	No	11.59pm Sunday 5/1/20 (end of break)
<u>Essay</u>	40%	No	11.59pm Wednesday 22/1/20 (Week 6/ Assessment week)
<u>Participation</u>	15%	No	Ongoing

Moral Reasoning Assignment

Due: **11.59pm, Sunday 15/12/19 (Week 2)**

Weighting: **20%**

All students must complete an initial assignment of 700 words. The aim of this exercise is to help you become familiar with the techniques of moral reasoning and to encourage you to think critically about moral issues in relation to current events.

This task will be assessed by the following criteria: content, structure, argument and critical analysis, written expression and referencing. A detailed rubric for this task will be supplied on iLearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate good general knowledge of the major issues in contemporary business and professional ethics
- Understand the major ethical concepts and theories that inform the business and professional ethics literature
- Analyse and critically evaluate theories and arguments in the relevant literature
- Relate ethical concepts and theories to relevant case studies and current events
- Develop your own view or perspective, through consideration and analysis of views and arguments presented in the unit
- Develop your skills in clarity of thought, clarity of verbal and written expression, and written argumentation

Reading Assignment

Due: **11.59pm Sunday 5/1/20 (end of break)**

Weighting: **25%**

All students will be expected to complete a second assignment of 800 words. Students must analyze in detail the arguments presented in a selected reading and answer questions about a case study related to one of the central debates in business ethics.

This task will be assessed by the following criteria: content, structure, argument and critical analysis, written expression and referencing. A detailed rubric for this task will be supplied on iLearn

Please note that this assignment is due at the end of the mid-semester break. However, the assessment covers content you will have covered by week 2, so you should be able to finish it and submit it in week 3, before the mid-semester break, if you would prefer to do so.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate good general knowledge of the major issues in contemporary business and professional ethics
- Understand the major ethical concepts and theories that inform the business and professional ethics literature
- Analyse and critically evaluate theories and arguments in the relevant literature
- Relate ethical concepts and theories to relevant case studies and current events
- Develop your own view or perspective, through consideration and analysis of views and arguments presented in the unit
- Develop your skills in clarity of thought, clarity of verbal and written expression, and written argumentation

Essay

Due: **11.59pm Wednesday 22/1/20 (Week 6/Assessment week)**

Weighting: **40%**

Essays develop your ability to engage with a topic in detail and to express, analyse and organize key ideas clearly and systematically. Students will complete a 1800 word essay.

This task will be assessed by the following criteria: content, structure, argument and critical analysis, written expression and referencing. A detailed rubric for this task will be supplied on iLearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate good general knowledge of the major issues in contemporary business and professional ethics
- Understand the major ethical concepts and theories that inform the business and professional ethics literature
- Analyse and critically evaluate theories and arguments in the relevant literature

- Relate ethical concepts and theories to relevant case studies and current events
- Develop your own view or perspective, through consideration and analysis of views and arguments presented in the unit
- Develop your skills in clarity of thought, clarity of verbal and written expression, and written argumentation

Participation

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **15%**

Discussion is a vital part of learning in philosophy. Your participation mark will be assessed using the following criteria: quality of your posts and their timeliness (you should post within a week of the topic). Quality is not just measured by the philosophical content of your posts, but by your willingness to engage in discussion with your peers. A rubric will be available in iLearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate good general knowledge of the major issues in contemporary business and professional ethics
- Understand the major ethical concepts and theories that inform the business and professional ethics literature
- Develop your own view or perspective, through consideration and analysis of views and arguments presented in the unit
- Develop your skills in clarity of thought, clarity of verbal and written expression, and written argumentation

Delivery and Resources

Required and recommended texts and/or materials

All required readings and most supplementary readings are available from eReserve. Consult the Unit Schedule for a week by week outline of required readings and supplementary readings.

PHIL201/PHIX201 is run as an integrated unit for students enrolled directly through Macquarie University (PHIL201) and students enrolled through Open Universities Australia (PHIX201). It is fully online, and is delivered through the unit *iLearn* site, which contains a wide range of resources including lectures, notes, online discussion facilities and so on. You are expected to keep up with the unit material on a regular basis, making use of the facilities available, and are strongly encouraged to seek help from your tutor or convenor if you are having any problems.

All students are encouraged to make use of the discussion facilities within the iLearn site to discuss course material. The discussion forum will be monitored by your tutor, who will try to answer questions as needed, but we encourage you all to help each other out on the board as

well.

You are expected to complete all assessment tasks, as detailed above.

NOTE: This is an intensive unit

Please remember that as the Session 3 unit is run intensively, you will need to allow **at least twice** as much time to work on it as you would for an ordinary unit. Either two or three ordinary weeks' worth of content are covered each week in the S3 unit, so it is important to keep up with lectures, readings and discussion activities. If you find you are having trouble, please contact one of the teaching staff.

Unit Schedule

Week 1 (2/12 - 8/12)

TOPIC 1: Introduction: Ultimate Values, Business and the Professions

TOPIC 2: Ethics and the Nature of Moral Reasoning

Week 2 (9/12- 15/12)

TOPIC 3 :The Social Responsibility of Business: The Narrow View

TOPIC 4: The Social Responsibility of Business: Broader Views and Stakeholder Theory

Week 3 (16/12 - 22/12)

TOPIC 5: Industry Relations with the Professions

TOPIC 6: Justice, Markets and Equality

TOPIC 7: Ethical Issues in Advertising

Mid-semester break: 23/12-5/1

Week 4 (6/1 -12/1)

TOPIC 8: Business and the Environment

TOPIC 9: Corporate Influence on Government

TOPIC 10: Justice and Globalisation

Week 5 (13/1-19/1)

TOPIC 11: Discrimination and Affirmative Action

TOPIC 12: Ethical Business Models and Moral Managers

Week 6 - Assessment week

Essay due Wednesday 22/1

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Undergraduate students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/getting-started/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Analyse and critically evaluate theories and arguments in the relevant literature
- Relate ethical concepts and theories to relevant case studies and current events
- Develop your own view or perspective, through consideration and analysis of views and arguments presented in the unit
- Develop your skills in clarity of thought, clarity of verbal and written expression, and written argumentation

Assessment tasks

- Moral Reasoning Assignment
- Essay
- Participation

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Relate ethical concepts and theories to relevant case studies and current events
- Develop your own view or perspective, through consideration and analysis of views and arguments presented in the unit
- Develop your skills in clarity of thought, clarity of verbal and written expression, and written argumentation

Assessment tasks

- Moral Reasoning Assignment
- Participation

Commitment to Continuous Learning

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Develop your own view or perspective, through consideration and analysis of views and arguments presented in the unit

Assessment tasks

- Moral Reasoning Assignment
- Participation

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Demonstrate good general knowledge of the major issues in contemporary business and professional ethics
- Understand the major ethical concepts and theories that inform the business and professional ethics literature

Assessment tasks

- Moral Reasoning Assignment
- Reading Assignment
- Essay
- Participation

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand the major ethical concepts and theories that inform the business and professional ethics literature
- Analyse and critically evaluate theories and arguments in the relevant literature
- Relate ethical concepts and theories to relevant case studies and current events
- Develop your own view or perspective, through consideration and analysis of views and arguments presented in the unit
- Develop your skills in clarity of thought, clarity of verbal and written expression, and written argumentation

Assessment tasks

- Moral Reasoning Assignment
- Reading Assignment
- Essay
- Participation

Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Analyse and critically evaluate theories and arguments in the relevant literature
- Relate ethical concepts and theories to relevant case studies and current events
- Develop your own view or perspective, through consideration and analysis of views and arguments presented in the unit
- Develop your skills in clarity of thought, clarity of verbal and written expression, and written argumentation

Assessment tasks

- Moral Reasoning Assignment
- Reading Assignment
- Essay
- Participation

Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Analyse and critically evaluate theories and arguments in the relevant literature
- Relate ethical concepts and theories to relevant case studies and current events

- Develop your skills in clarity of thought, clarity of verbal and written expression, and written argumentation

Assessment tasks

- Moral Reasoning Assignment
- Reading Assignment
- Essay
- Participation

Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Develop your own view or perspective, through consideration and analysis of views and arguments presented in the unit

Assessment tasks

- Moral Reasoning Assignment
- Essay
- Participation

Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Develop your own view or perspective, through consideration and analysis of views and arguments presented in the unit

Assessment tasks

- Moral Reasoning Assignment

- Reading Assignment
- Participation